

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR HUBERMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, OVIP (DR. FRANK PRESS), UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR S&T AGREEMENT: JOINT COMMISSION
MEETING: POSSIBLE MEETING WITH THE PRESS FOR
PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE ADVISER FRANK PRESS

REF: (A) STATE 153988, (B) MOSCOW 15458, (C) STATE
135897

1. DURING JULY 3 MEETING AT SCST AYKAZYAN TOLD SCI-
COUNS THAT SOVIETS INTEND TO INVITE JOURNALISTS TO S&T
JCM OPENING SESSION MORNING OF JULY 17 AND TO PROTOCOL
SIGNING CEREMONY EVENING OF JULY 19. AYKAZYAN INDICATED
THAT THE PRESS WOULD ONLY BE PRESENT TO OBSERVE AND TO
PHOTOGRAPH THE BRIEF WELCOMING STATEMENT ON JULY 17
AND FOR THE PROTOCOL SIGNING ON JULY 19. (AYKAZYAN
INDICATED THAT IT WAS UP TO THE US TO DECIDE WHETHER
US PRESS SHOULD BE INVITED; HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT
SOVIET JOURNALISTS WILL BE INVITED.) AYKAZYAN ADDED THAT
SOVIETS DO NOT INTEND TO ALLOW THE PRESS TO ASK ANY
QUESTIONS AND HE INDICATED THAT THE PRESS WOULD BE
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USHERED OUT OF THE MEETING HALL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE
PRESS AND KIRILLIN STATEMENTS.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FROM REF A THAT DR. PRESS DOES NOT
WISH TO SCHEDULE A FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE DURING HIS
VISIT TO THE USSR. WE BELIEVE; HOWEVER, THAT DR. PRESS'
TRIP TO CHINA AND THE RECENT US PROTESTS AND DELEGATION

CANCELLATIONS OVER THE ORLOV CONVICTION WILL RESULT IN STRONG DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE RESIDENT US PRESS CORPS TO MEET DR. PRESS SOMETIME DURING HIS STAY IN MOSCOW.

3. WE PLAN TO INFORM US PRESS CORPS IN MOSCOW ABOUT THE JCM OPENING AND SIGNING CEREMONIES. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER DR. PRESS WOULD WISH TO MEET INFORMALLY IN AN OFF THE RECORD SESSION WITH US JOURNALISTS IN MOSCOW EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR IN A GROUP.

4. COMMENT: SOVIETS ARE USUALLY AVID FOR PRESS CONFERENCES AT EVENTS SUCH AS THE S&T JCM. WHILE AYKAZYAN COUCHED SUGGESTED MANNER OF HANDLING MEDIA IN TERMS OF DR. PRESS' DESIRE NOT TO HOLD FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE, IT IS CLEAR THAT SOVIETS ARE NOT AT THIS POINT OVERLY ANXIOUS FOR WESTERN PRESS EXPOSURE. THE SOVIET ATTITUDE PROBABLY STEMS FROM DR. PRESS' CHINA VISIT AND FROM KIRILLIN'S BRUSH WITH THE PRESS IN LONDON, IN THE WAKE OF THE ORLOV TRIAL (REF C). TOON

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